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Man Listed In Critical Condition

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Staff Writer

A county man was accidentally shot in the chest at 7:26 p.m. Thursday by two teenage hunters shooting into a hay field.

The victim was identified as Marshall M. Castle, 58, of RFD 1, Frederick. He was taken to Frederick Memorial Hospital for immediate surgery, and was still listed in critical condition last night.

Investigation by Sgt. Byron L. Hubble, revealed that Mark E. White, 14, and Donald M. Carpenter, 13, both of RFD 1, Frederick, were in woods on the northwest side of the intersection of Md. 26 and Chestnut Grove Road hunting groundhogs with 22 caliber rifles and 22 long rifle shells.

They were apparently walking along the edge of the woods which borders a hayfield.

White and Carpenter told State Police they saw what they thought was a groundhog approximately 300 feet away.

White said he whistled and the object raised slightly, then dropped to the ground. Carpenter told police he then fired three

See CONDITION, Page A-5

CONDITION

(Continued From Page One)

shots from his semi-automatic rifle. Both said they could tell that at least one of the shots had struck the object, which they discovered to be Castle.

An ambulance was called immediately by the boys.

Carpenter and white told police they did not know Castle was in the field, and that he must have been sitting in the tall grass, with only his head visible.

Castle's wife told police her husband had gone groundhog hunting around 7 p.m. as he often had before.

Investigation is continuing.